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COUNTRY: West Germany/France REPORT NO: 875 1441
SUBJECT: Former General Wilhelm Bittrich REPORT DATE: 27 August 1957
INFO DATE: July 1957 PAGES: 1
ACQUIRED: Germany, Frankfurt (2 August 1957)
SOURCE: German rightist (C) Appraisal of Content: 3

1. At the end of the war, Waffen-SS General (Obergruppenfuhrer) Wilhelm Bittrich was commanding general of the 2d Armored Corps (the "Florian Geyer" and "Hohenstaufen" divisions) of the Waffen SS. He was held by the French in Marseilles until 1954. Bittrich now lives at Munzing near Berg on the Starnberger See with his wife. He receives a welfare pension of 123 DM per month. In March 1957 he was granted an additional 76 DM monthly as restitution for war damages because of the total loss of his dwelling.
 2. Bittrich's French lawyer visits him every year at Munzing. At the instigation of this lawyer, the French Consul-General in Munich interceded personally with Defense Minister Franz Josef Strauss on Bittrich's behalf. Bittrich received word from Strauss's military adjutant, a lieutenant colonel, that he himself would speak to the minister. General Heusinger,¹ with whom Bittrich is closely acquainted, also promised to make some effort to remedy his economic situation.
 3. Bittrich is in close contact with and irregularly meets General Penzel, who is in charge of Bundeswehr units stationed in Munich and Upper Bavaria. *N. FERN*
 4. Bittrich was invited by HIAG to attend their convention in Karlsburg/Karlstadt on 27-28 July 1957 and to speak at the meeting. At first he did not intend to go, but when the question of maintenance payments to former Waffen-SS officers was not positively solved by supplemental legislation, he decided to go to the meeting and take an active part in asking former Waffen-SS members to boycott the Bundestag elections as an answer to denial of their pensions. He intended also to attack former Colonel-General Paul Hausser-Ludwigsburg for his hesitation in the matter and to try to inspire the HIAG membership to circulate the idea of the election boycott.
1. Field Comment. This is apparently (Gen. Lt.) Adolf Heusinger, head of the Military Leadership Council in the Defense Ministry. *N. FERN*

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